



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 2 January 2009

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- The Knoxville News Sentinel reports that two felons face federal charges after they were caught December 17 trying to get inside the Y-12 National Security complex in Tennessee with a gun and ammunition inside their vehicle. (See item [9](#))
- According to SC Magazine, researchers on Tuesday demonstrated an attack that allowed them to successfully create a rogue Certification Authority certificate, which would be trusted by all Web browsers and allow an attacker to impersonate any Web site, including those secured by the HTTPS protocol. (See item [35](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors](#), [Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities](#); [Emergency Services](#); [National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical**: ELEVATED, **Cyber**: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *December 31, Times-Picayune* – (Texas) **Texan pleads guilty in bomb threat.** A Texas woman pleaded guilty in federal court Tuesday to making a bomb threat that forced the evacuation and two-day shutdown of an oil platform 103 miles out in the Gulf of Mexico. The woman made the phone call from Texas to the rig owned by Murphy Oil Co. on February 18, court records show. When an employee in the recreation room on the rig answered the phone, the woman asked for a rig worker. When the man put the phone down to find the worker, another man picked up the receiver and told the woman that the phone was to be used for outgoing calls only. At that point, she told him, “There

is a bomb on your rig.” Asked to repeat what she had just said, she told the man again, “There is a bomb on your rig.” Murphy Oil employees then instituted their bomb threat procedure. Drilling was halted for two days, and the company evacuated 68 employees to shore by air and boat while the platform was searched. Murphy said the evacuation and lost production cost the company \$985,000.

Source: <http://www.nola.com/news/t-p/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1230704490256000.xml&coll=1>

2. *December 30, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **BP pays fines for safety violations at Whiting refinery.** BP America Inc. has paid \$332,250 in fines after state regulators found more than a dozen safety violations at its oil refinery along Lake Michigan two years ago. The Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration initially announced \$384,250 in fines in November 2006, but an agency review board last summer downgraded or dropped half of the 14 original violations and reduced the accompanying fines by \$52,000.
Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-bp-fine-30-dec30,0,7746937.story>
3. *December 30, Reliable Plant News Wires* – (New Jersey) **Sunoco refinery in NJ cited for 34 safety violations.** The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) cited Sunoco Inc. for workplace safety and health violations, proposing \$305,000 in fines. The Westville, New Jersey, oil refinery has 472 employees. OSHA initiated its investigation as part of its National Emphasis Program focused on petroleum refinery process safety management. As a result of the investigation, the company was issued citations for 25 serious violations, with a penalty of \$105,000, and nine repeat violations, with a penalty of \$200,000.
Source: <http://www.reliableplant.com/article.aspx?articleid=15122&pagetitle=Sunoco+refinery+in+N.J.+cited+for+34+safety+violations>
4. *December 30, Anchorage Daily News* – (Alaska) **Valdez refinery fire leaves plenty of questions.** Workers at the fire-damaged Petro Star Inc. refinery spent December 30 mounting an extensive cleanup amid the frigid, windy weather that has plagued Valdez in recent days. The refinery remained shut down as investigators looked for the cause of the December 28 evening fire that left major damage at the plant. Two deputy state fire marshals were at the refinery December 30 to assist the Valdez Fire Department in the probe. It could be quite awhile before the full extent of the damage as well as the cause of the fire are known, said an employee of Arctic Slope Regional Corp., parent company of Petro Star. Although normal operations are idled indefinitely, all 22 of the refinery’s employees will continue to work, she said. Pollution regulators with the state Department of Environmental Conservation are monitoring the cleanup and on December 30 released new details of contamination on the site. The agency increased the estimated volume of spilled crude oil to 200 gallons, nearly four times the original estimate. And as much as 8,000 gallons of firefighting water is frozen on the site and slightly contaminated with oil.
Source: <http://www.adn.com/money/industries/oil/story/638436.html>

5. *December 30, Reliable Plant News Wires* – (Pennsylvania) **ConocoPhillips faces \$116,500 in OSHA penalties.** The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) cited ConocoPhillips Company for safety and health violations, proposing \$116,500 in penalties. The Trainer, Pennsylvania, petroleum refinery has 425 employees. OSHA initiated its investigation on June 19, 2008, as part of a National Emphasis Program focus on petroleum refinery process safety management. As a result, the company has been issued 26 serious violations, with a penalty of \$91,500, and one repeat violation, with a penalty of \$25,000.
Source: <http://www.reliableplant.com/article.asp?articleid=15120>
6. *December 29, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **Billion-gallon sludge flood could change utility.** The spill of more than a billion gallons of coal ash from a power plant in East Tennessee may change the way the nation’s largest government-owned utility stores coal waste. Roane County officials are pushing the Tennessee Valley Authority to quit using large retention ponds filled with water and fly ash, a byproduct of coal-fired power plants. One of the ponds burst December 22 at a plant roughly 35 miles west of Knoxville, sending a flood of gray sludge over about 300 acres and destroying three homes along the Clinch River. The Roane County executive said December 29 he does not expect to see such holding ponds on the TVA property in the future. The TVA chief executive also told residents at a meeting on December 28 that his agency is reviewing storage options at the plant.
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28422775/>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

7. *December 30, ICIS News* – (National) **Tougher U.S. chemical security rules ahead.** The existing U.S. process industry security law, the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS), expires at the end of 2009 and must be renewed by the new 111th Congress that will convene in January. Replacement legislation is already pending in the U.S. House and is certain to be re-introduced in 2009. That existing replacement legislation, HR-5577, is viewed by industry as burdensome because it expressly allows individual states to enact their own, tougher chemical security laws and because it mandates the use of inherently safer technology as a security measure. Adding to the near certainty of much tougher chemical site security rules is a report issued in November 2008 by the Center for American Progress (CAP). The report, “Chemical Security 101,” argues that HR-5577 or its successor bill should include a broad mandate for use of inherently safer technologies. The CAP report says that instead of being one factor in chemical facility security — along with better fencing, cameras and guards — inherently safer technology requirements should form the core of plant site security regulations. In particular, CAP said that in revising the existing regulations Congress should “require chemical facilities to assess and use feasible alternatives that reduce the potential harm of a terrorist attack.” The report also urges stronger monitoring of chemical facilities by federal and state officials, recommending in particular that state security agencies be allowed to set higher standards for high-risk

plants than those required by federal agencies. Greenpeace and other environmental groups want federal officials to have authority to order changes in chemical plant operations, products or processes to make high-risk plant sites less attractive as potential terrorist targets and to minimize off-site fatalities if there is a terrorist attack. As currently drafted, HR-5577 would require inherently safer technology requirements for plant sites deemed at highest risk for terrorist attack — about 200-300 U.S. facilities. Source: <http://www.icis.com/Articles/2008/12/30/9180909/outlook-09-tougher-us-chemical-security-rules-ahead.html>

8. *December 30, South Texas Record* – (Texas) **Chemical seller seeks \$1M from testing companies over toxicity report.** Martin Product Sales is seeking more than \$1 million in a suit filed against chemical testing companies it alleges falsified levels of toxic contaminants. The suit alleges that Martin sold 1,400 metric tons of sulfuric acid after the Camin Cargo Control Inc. and Chemtex Environmental Laboratory falsely reported there were no undesirable contaminants in the sulfuric acid. According to the suit, Martin planned to seel 1,400 metric tons of sulfuric acid and hired Camin to sample, analyze and test the sulfuric acid to reveal whether it contained appreciable levels of commercially undesirable contaminants, such as highly toxic mercury, and to reveal any contaminants it did find. Camin, acting through Chemtex, failed to conduct the sampling, contaminant analysis or testing of the sulfuric acid, the suit states. Instead, it certified the sulfuric acid did not contain commercially significant levels of undesirable contaminants, Martin alleges. Only after delivering the contaminated sulphuric acid to its customers did Martin Product Sales learn of the incorrect certification, the suit states. Camin and Chemtxalso negligently misrepresented their reports on the sulfuric acid and were negligent by failing to properly sample the sulfuric acid, the suit states. Source: <http://www.setexasrecord.com/news/216622-chemical-seller-seeks-1m-from-testing-companies-over-toxicity-report>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

Nothing to report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *December 31, Knoxville News Sentinel* – (Tennessee) **2 felons accused of trying to enter Y-12 with weapon.** Two felons face federal charges after authorities allege they were caught trying to get inside the Y-12 National Security complex with a gun and ammunition inside their vehicle, court records show. The pair have been jailed pending trial on federal weapons charges lodged against the pair after a December 17 incident at the Oak Ridge facility. According to an affidavit filed by an FBI agent, a vehicle driven by one felon, carrying the other felon as a passenger, drove up to a checkpoint at the Y-12 facility at 7:45 a.m. on December 17 in an apparent attempt to get inside the facility. It is not clear from the affidavit why the men sought entry or what connection they had

to the complex.

Source: <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2008/dec/31/2-felons-accused-trying-enter-y-12-weapon/>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

10. *December 31, Chicago Tribune* – (Illinois) **8 arrested in ring targeting police credit unions.** Police have arrested eight people in a two-month-long investigation of at least \$150,000 in credit card fraud against members of two police credit unions, officials announced late Tuesday. The fraud ring, which involved seven employees of Chicago-area retail stores, hit 140 accounts at the Illinois State Police Credit Union and the Chicago Patrolmen's Credit Union, according to Illinois State Police. The ring operated out of Crestwood, although most of those arrested were from Chicago, according to a police press release. The investigation involved state police, the U.S. Secret Service, the Illinois Attorney General's office, and the Chicago Police Department, according to police. Police did not identify the retail stores involved, but corporate security for Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., also assisted in the investigation. According to police, the ring involved seven employees of retail stores who either bought merchandise fraudulently or helped other people buy goods fraudulently. Investigators began their probe after people with accounts at the two credit unions found out someone was making fraudulent purchases on their cards. Seven people were arrested by state police Tuesday morning, and one more Tuesday night, police said. Each was charged with one count of theft and one count of wire fraud, class three felonies that carry up to five years in prison. Source: <http://www.chicagobreakingnews.com/2008/12/arrests-in-credit-card-fraud-against-police-credit-union-members.html>
11. *December 30, WSMV 4 Nashville* – (Tennessee) **Credit card scam worries airport workers.** There are worries at Nashville International Airport that a credit card scheme is taking advantage of workers and possibly travelers. Some airport workers reported that their checking accounts were suddenly short of hundreds of dollars. An airline employee said someone got his debit card numbers and went on a shopping spree in Texas. It appears some of the employee's co-workers have had the same thing happen to them, too. All of the victims said they used their debit card at an airport food vendor. The Nashville International Airport Police Department said they are investigating the cases, and an internal memo said the Secret Service is looking into the matter as well. Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28435524/>
12. *December 30, Reuters* – (National) **SEC halts alleged \$23 million Ponzi scheme.** U.S. securities regulators obtained an emergency court order to stop an alleged Ponzi scheme that collected more than \$23 million from thousands of investors in Florida's Haitian-American community, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) said on Tuesday. The SEC alleged that Creative Capital and its principal owner launched a scheme as early as November 2007 urging investors to form investment clubs to funnel funds to the owner and Creative Capital. The SEC alleged the owner has lost at least \$18 million trading stocks and options over the last year and that Creative Capital repaid

early investors with money from later investors. The owner combined investor funds with his personal funds and misappropriated at least \$3.8 million for himself and his family, the SEC alleged.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/newsOne/idUSTRE4BT3ZU20081230>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

13. *December 30, Bulk Transporter* – (National) **TSA extends rail hazmat security rule.**
The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) said it was extending a rule addressing hazardous materials security so that affected parties would have more time to conduct training and implement procedures to come into compliance with the chain of custody and control requirements of the rule. TSA issued the rule November 26, 2008, that codifies the scope of TSA's existing inspection program and requires regulated parties to allow TSA and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials to enter, inspect, and test property, facilities, conveyances, and records relevant to rail security. The rule also requires that regulated parties designate rail security coordinators and report significant security concerns. In addition, freight rail carriers and certain facilities handling specified hazardous materials must be able to report location and shipping information to TSA upon request and implement chain of custody requirements to ensure a positive and secure exchange of specified hazardous materials.
Source: http://bulktransporter.com/news/railroad_hazmat_1230/
14. *December 30, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **Freighter hits railroad bridge in St. Joseph.** The Coast Guard says no one was hurt when a U.S.-flagged freighter ran into a railroad bridge in St. Joseph. The 620-foot ship hit the bridge on the St. Joseph River Tuesday morning. Structural engineers have determined that the span can safely carry rail traffic. The empty ship has sustained only minor damage and isn't taking on water. The Coast Guard says it's interviewing witnesses and the vessel's crew, and has started performing required drug and alcohol tests.
Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-mi-freighter-bridge,0,1592584.story>
15. *December 30, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Amtrak locomotive catches fire in Lake Forest.** The locomotive of an Amtrak train carrying 200 people from San Diego to Los Angeles caught fire in Lake Forest this afternoon, delaying passengers for about two hours. The rear engine compartment of the five-car Surfliner train No. 573 caught fire about 12:45 between Lake Forest Drive and Bake Parkway, train and fire officials said. When the engineer saw smoke rising from the compartment, he stopped the locomotive and attempted to put out the flames with a fire extinguisher, said a captain of the Orange County Fire Authority. The train crew could not fully extinguish the fire, which was put out by fire crews. Passengers did not have to be evacuated, authorities said, and no one was injured. Another Amtrak train traveling north from San Diego to Union Station was pushing the disabled No. 573 train to its destination later this afternoon, said an Amtrak spokeswoman.
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-train31-2008dec31,0,4230962.story>

Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *December 31, Buffalo News* – (New York) **Four teens arrested in mailbox bomb spree.** The Chautauqua County Sheriff's Office Tuesday arrested four Dunkirk teenagers following a two-month investigation that was launched after several mailboxes were destroyed by homemade explosives in the Town of Sheridan and in Dunkirk. The suspects are identified as two 18 year-olds and two 17 year-olds. Each was charged with first-degree criminal mischief, attempted criminal mischief, and reckless endangerment, all felonies. Arraigned in Sheridan Town Court, the suspects were being held in Chautauqua County Jail, each in lieu of \$20,000 cash bail or \$40,000 property bail.
Source: <http://www.buffalonews.com/437/story/536740.html>
17. *December 31, Kalamazoo News* – (Michigan) **FBI investigates powder in mail at IndyMac office in Texas Township.** Kalamazoo County's hazardous-materials team twice this week responded to IndyMac Bank Home Loan Servicing on Beatrice Drive after mailroom workers noticed suspicious white powder inside envelopes. IndyMac first contacted authorities after 3 p.m. Monday, when workers found the first envelope. The area of the building was cordoned off as officials investigated. Two more envelopes were discovered Tuesday — one around 10 a.m. and another at 1 p.m. All three envelopes came from the same batch of mail.
Source: http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2008/12/fbi_investigates_powder_in_mai.html
18. *December 31, Xinhua* – (International) **U.S. Embassy in Fiji tightens security after finding white powder.** The U.S. Embassy in Fiji tightened security at all entrance points after security officers received a package containing white powder on Wednesday. A police spokeswoman said embassy security then informed police and the police Ready Action Unit moved in, the Fijilive website reported. She added that the powder has been taken for analysis to determine what the substance was.
Source: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-12/31/content_10586150.htm
19. *December 30, Associated Press* – (International) **U.S. Embassy in Brazil receives suspicious package.** The U.S. Embassy in Brazil has been searched by a bomb squad after receiving a suspicious package by mail, but local authorities say it did not contain explosives. An embassy spokesman said agents conducted the inspection along with U.S. security personnel. He could not confirm the results of the search, but said it did not interrupt operations Tuesday.
Source: http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jri_k8LEpXbC_7aAbpFDEom52CcQD95DB2T80
20. *December 30, Seattle Times* – (Washington) **Bomb scare ends at Federal Way bulk**

mail facility. A bomb scare has ended at a bulk mail processing center in Federal Way. A Postal Service spokesman said about 250 workers who were evacuated were allowed to return to work about noon Tuesday. He said a manager called police after a worker found two suspicious devices about 8:30 a.m. He says they appeared to be electronic, but he couldn't say what they are or why they appeared dangerous. A police spokesman said they were about 2-by-6 inches in size. They were examined by a bomb squad.

Source:

http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2008573835_apwasuspiciouspackages1stldwritethru.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

21. *December 31, Telegraph* – (International) **U.S. officials crack down on Chinese 'honey laundering.'** So-called "honey laundering" involves elaborate schemes in which cheap, diluted or contaminated honey from China is brought in after being "laundered" in another country to disguise its origin and evade tariffs and health inspections. A five-month investigation by the Seattle Post-Intelligencer newspaper found the international honey trade rife with criminal enterprises designed to take advantage of the demand for imports created by the mysterious collapse of bee colonies across America. According to the paper, large shipments of tainted honey from China have recently arrived at Western U.S. ports after being repackaged as a product of Russia. Tens of thousands of tons of honey also enter the United States each year from countries with few bees and no record of exporting honey such as Singapore and the Bahamas. The smugglers aim to avoid the health checks, tariffs and import fees imposed on foreign food products that deliberately undercut U.S. domestic prices. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is cracking down on honey launderers amid fears that dangerously contaminated honey could slip into the U.S. market and harm consumers. Efforts to tackle honey laundering have also been launched in Russian, India and Australia. The Post-Intelligencer claims, however, that U.S. inspections of honey imports remain rare, and federal officials have yet to adopt a legal definition of honey which makes it hard to keep substandard honey from being sold. The concern about Chinese honey stems from the use of a toxic antibiotic to fight a contagious bacterial epidemic that raged through hives across China in 1997. The drug, chloramphenicol, has been banned from all food products by the FDA. The administration says tainted honey from China is at the top of its watch list and has issued three "import alerts" to port and border inspectors about tainted Chinese honey.

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/4043733/US-officials-crack-down-on-Chinese-honey-laundering.html>

22. *December 31, Associated Press* – (National) **Laser experiment hopes to save farm water.** A team from the University of California at San Diego is using a large aperture scintillometer to study how much water crops lose to evaporation and the peak times that water disappears. The hope is to give farmers a more accurate, up-to-date reading of how efficiently their crops are using water than current technology allows. Some advancements in irrigation have focused on water delivery system — such as sprinklers. But while most farmers are experts at managing their irrigation by sight, recent years'

droughts have called for more sophisticated ways to use — and save — water. Further restrictions could result from last month's decision by state fish and wildlife managers to limit pumping to protect another native fish, the longfin smelt. The team hopes to give farmers more valuable information by using the scintillometer, which focuses laser beams across a farm field and records fluctuations of the refractive index of air that is caused by such things as changes in temperature and humidity. The hope is farmers can eventually use the lasers to more accurately measure the amount of irrigated farm water lost to evapotranspiration.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5g4mR4n0NEhauieppcGk-rsqFqwIgD95DJ3T00>

23. *December 30, U.S. Food Safety and Inspection Service* – (Colorado) **Colorado firm recalls burrito products for possible *Listeria* contamination.** Home Fresh Sandwich Distributors, Inc., a Denver, Colorado, firm, is recalling approximately 172 pounds of burrito products that may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service announced Tuesday. The burrito products were produced on December 23, 2008, and sold at retail convenience stores in Colorado. Consumers may have purchased these burrito products on December 24 and 25, 2008. The problem was discovered through FSIS routine microbiological testing. FSIS has received no reports of illnesses associated with consumption of this product.

Source: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_053_2008_Release/index.asp

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

24. *December 31, Register Pajaronian* – (California) **Construction begins on Royal Oaks water system.** The Pajaro/Sunny Mesa Community Services District (PSMCSD) began construction two weeks ago on a new \$4.2 million water system that will serve more than 130 Royal Oaks customers. The project is a complete reconstruction of an aging system that is more than 70 years old in some places. It calls for new meters and water tanks and will take advantage of a new well; the area's previous main well had high nitrates, and will be concreted when the current 210-day project is complete. "The system was so dilapidated and so old," the PSMCSD general manager said. "In one area they had four tanks, and there were three leaking."

Source: http://www.register-pajaronian.com/V2_news_articles.php?heading=0&page=72&story_id=6483

25. *December 30, Water Technology Online* – (Missouri) **Green-tinged wastewater discharge stopped.** A six-week investigation has determined that a previous discharge of green water from the Wastewater Treatment Plant in Mexico, Missouri, has been traced to a mix of discharges from the city of Mexico and Teva Pharmaceuticals, USA, according to a December 30 article in *The Mexico Ledger*. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conducted the investigation, and there has been no determination yet as to whether there will be an enforcement action. State water

protection officials told the Mexico Ledger on December 29 that they had received the case and that no decision had yet been made. The green-tinged water was described as having an anti-freeze color or fluorescent hue. It was first discovered on November 19 and encompassed more than a 5-mile stretch of the South Fork of the Salt River near Mexico's wastewater treatment plant. DNR officials determined earlier this month that the cause of the nontoxic discoloration was the result of a reaction between chemicals being used at Teva Pharmaceuticals and those being used at the city's wastewater treatment plant, the article said. The discolored discharge has ceased. Teva Pharmaceuticals has installed an activated carbon filtration system to treat its wastewater prior to discharge to the city's wastewater treatment plant, and the company is continuing to work on the issue.

Source: http://watertechonline.com/news.asp?N_ID=71173

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

26. *December 30, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Hong Kong-born baby girl contracts mild form of bird flu.** A Hong Kong-born infant has contracted a mild form of bird flu, the fifth case of its type in the territory, health authorities said Tuesday. The two-month-old girl, who lives with her parents in China's southern city of Shenzhen, was diagnosed with the influenza A (H9N2) infection after she developed vomiting, a cough, and a runny nose, according to the city's Centre for Health Protection. A Centre administrator said the virus was detected in a specimen taken from the girl's respiratory system when she was admitted to Hong Kong's Tuen Mun Hospital on December 22. She was discharged on December 23, but re-admitted to the hospital six days later because of a high white blood cell count, which may be suggestive of an underlying haematological condition, the centre said. The girl is staying in the hospital for further investigation.

Source:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iylDM4LENIT0Wsa1_e0lesoDMJ7w

27. *December 30, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Pa. hospitals go high-tech on infection tracking.** At Hershey Medical Center, a sophisticated computer program serves as a watchdog for infection outbreaks. With a few mouse clicks on a Web browser, the hospital's infection-control staffers can quickly generate reports with charts and graphs illustrating how many patients within a particular unit are infected, and which lab specimen contained the germs. Pennsylvania health officials view the nascent technology as a critical tool for helping hospitals reduce health care costs by identifying potential systemic infection-control problems sooner than is possible by reviewing paper records by hand — an approach some health professionals call “shoe-leather epidemiology.” Using traditional investigation methods, infection-control professionals must spend hours poring over patient charts, but limit the scope of their inquiry to areas of the hospital where infection outbreaks are most likely to occur. With electronic monitoring, hospitals can cast a wider net, using software that employs algorithms to do the heavy lifting of sorting through every single laboratory, pharmacy and X-ray report

that is entered into the hospital's computer network. Pennsylvania is the only state in the nation to include "electronic surveillance" — like the Hershey hospital's system — in its infection reporting laws, according to the Association of Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5i35lpS0g8WzjiN6OPSKBoqspMCawD95D6FNG0>

28. *December 30, Associated Press* – (National) **FDA approves new HIV blood test.**

Federal regulators said Tuesday they have approved a new HIV test that screens for two, less common forms of the virus. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said the TaqScreen MPX Test is the first to simultaneously detect HIV-2 and HIV-1 Group O strains. Both types of HIV are mainly found among patients in Africa, but the FDA said they have recently been detected in the United States. The test, which is made by a division of Swiss drugmaker Roche, also screens for the most common forms of HIV and hepatitis. The MPX test is designed to screen for infectious diseases in human blood and tissue samples from donors.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28440478/>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Facilities Sector

29. *December 31, WNCT 9 Greenville* – (North Carolina) **Pilot ID'ed as investigation continues into Harrier crash.**

The pilot of the AV-8B Harrier that crashed near Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point Monday afternoon was a captain. He died when his AV-8B Harrier crashed into a field off Highway 101 between Havelock and Harlowe, just a couple of miles from the flightline at Cherry Point. On Tuesday, security was still tight where the plane crashed. The wreckage of the downed plane will stay in the field where it came to rest until investigators finish photographing and documenting the scene. Investigators stayed tight-lipped about the crash Tuesday and said it could be quite some time before they know for sure what caused the Harrier to go down.

Source:

http://www.wnct.com/nct/news/local/article/continuing_coverage_investigation_continues_into_harrier_crash/27504/

30. *December 30, Independent Mail* – (South Carolina) **Bomb threat called in to**

Anderson County administrative building, no injuries reported. A bomb threat closed an Anderson County administrative building at for roughly 30 minutes on Tuesday before the threat was cleared, according to officials on the scene. The City of Anderson Police Department K-9 unit helped establish that the building in downtown Anderson was safe, said a spokesman for the department. The building was closed off around 1:30 p.m. and was cleared just minutes after 2 p.m., Williams said. The safety of the building was handed over to the Anderson County Sheriff's Office, the spokesman said. A Sheriff's Office spokeswoman said the police department is handling the case. The building is a county office facility in city limits. The Anderson County Park Police Department provides security for the building, so several agencies remained on the

scene until at least 2:15 p.m. Tuesday. The threat was reported at the tail end of a special Anderson County Council meeting, said the County Sheriff-Elect.

Source: <http://www.independentmail.com/news/2008/dec/30/bomb-threat-called-anderson-county-administrative/>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

31. *December 31, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **SF 911 response is faster.**

Following a new protocol, San Francisco's 911 Call Center has reduced the time it takes dispatchers to process emergency medical calls and send help. First responders in the city are showing up late for 1 of every 5 urgent medical calls, according to the Chronicle's analysis of dispatch logs, an improvement over the previous four years, when delays occurred in about 1 of 4 cases. The call center's progress has been instrumental in reducing the overall response times of the Fire Department's ambulances and fire engines, whose paramedics and emergency medical technicians are most often the first to arrive at medical emergencies. The improvement follows a Chronicle investigation of dispatch logs for more than 200,000 high-priority medical calls, along with an examination of documents and audio recordings related to the performance of dispatchers and medics in cases involving delayed responses and fatalities. San Francisco's objective is to get professional help to the scene of high-priority medical emergencies within 6 1/2 minutes of receiving a 911 call, 90 percent of the time. That standard, adopted in 2004 by the San Francisco Emergency Medical Services Agency, was less stringent than a five-minute goal for urban areas recommended in 1998 by the EMS Emergency Medical Directors Association of California.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/12/30/MN4M14R22U.DTL>

32. *December 30, Times Herald-Record* – (New York) **Orange County's emergency center passes first winter test.** When ice storms cripple power across the Hudson Valley, Orange County's new Emergency Services Center stands ready to square off in defense. A new 88,000-square-foot emergency services center officially opened in the spring in Orange County, New York, but it faced its first major crisis two weeks ago, when a winter storm cut power to hundreds of thousands of homes across the region. Central Hudson Gas & Electric tallied more than 20,000 outages in Orange County alone. Clearing trees and mending power lines took an army of work crews, flanked by teams from municipalities, to clear roads, set up shelters, and communicate with residents. In years past, much of this coordination was done by telephone. A supervisor would call the utility companies, which would call the supervisor back. The governor would talk to the county, which would talk to the utility companies, which might not ever get back to the supervisor. The new emergency center cuts out the phone tag. At the facility, "we have a direct link from emergency management to our mainframe computer," said the manager of new business services for Central Hudson. All the winter storm players — fire, police, utilities — can work live from the command center, using state-of-the-art equipment to synchronize resources. The ice storm "was a very good test" for the new center," he said. "It worked well."

Source:

<http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081230/NEWS/812300312>

33. *December 30, Torrance Daily Breeze* – (California) **Box forces evacuation at LAPD Harbor Division.** The Los Angeles Police Department's Harbor Division was evacuated for nearly three hours Tuesday while the bomb squad investigated a suspicious package. An officer said a call came in just after noon about a box left in the lobby of the station in Wilmington. The station was evacuated "as a precaution," she said, while an X-ray machine on a robot was sent in. The box's contents were determined to be harmless.

Source: http://www.dailybreeze.com/ci_11341654

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology

34. *December 31, DarkReading* – (International) **Hundreds of Israeli websites hacked.** More than 300 Israeli web sites over the past few days have been hacked and defaced with anti-Israeli and anti-U.S. messages in an online propaganda campaign, a security expert says. The director of research in computer forensics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and a co-chair of the Anti-Phishing Working Group warned in his blog that U.S. web sites should be prepared for similar attacks. "American webmasters may wish to be especially vigilant right now," he blogged. He says these types of web site attacks are all about location, not size or prominence of the targeted site. "It only matters WHERE the Website is," he says.

Source:

<http://www.darkreading.com/security/attacks/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=212700313&subSection=Attacks/breaches>

35. *December 30, SC Magazine* – (International) **Hackers find hole to create rogue digital certificates.** Researchers on Tuesday demonstrated an attack that allowed them to successfully create a rogue Certification Authority (CA) certificate, which would be trusted by all Web browsers and allow an attacker to impersonate any Web site, including those secured by the HTTPS protocol. The researchers presented the research at the 25th Chaos Communication Congress in Berlin. They identified a vulnerability in the Internet Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) used to issue digital certificates for secure Web sites. The weakness exists in the MD5 cryptographic hash function, which allows the construction of different messages with the same MD5 hash — known as an MD5 "collision," according to their research paper. In other words, criminals would be able to create a fake CA certificate, which would be trusted by the Web browsers, allowing them to display any Web site as SSL-secured — represented by the padlock at the corner of the page. Specifically, attackers would be able to perform transparent man-in-the-middle attacks against SSL connections and monitor or tamper with the traffic to secure Web sites or email servers. While warnings against MD5 signing have been made since 2004, it is still used today by the certification authorities, including RapidSSL, FreeSSL, TrustCenter, RSA Data Security, Thawte, and verisign.co.jp. CAs that are still using MD5 are recommended to transition to more secure cryptographic hash functions, such

as SHA-1 or more preferably, SHA-2. The researchers said that the affected CAs have been notified and will be switching to the SHA-1 hash function “very, very soon.”

Source: <http://www.scmagazineus.com/Hackers-find-hole-to-create-rogue-digital-certificates/article/123407/>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

36. *December 29, IDG News Service* – (International) **Cable repairs set back by second undersea break.** Efforts to restore normal communications between Europe and Asia have suffered a setback after an important undersea cable broke for a second time, this time at a much greater depth. Engineers from France Telecom had just finished repairing the Sea Me We 4 cable on December 25 when the same cable broke again in a different place, this time 241 miles off the coast of Alexandria in Egypt, a France Telecom spokesman said Monday. The repair ship the “Raymond Croz,” which had just finished repairing the first break, was on its way to Sicily on Monday to pick up more cable to repair the second break, which happened more than 9,800 feet under the sea, the spokesman said. The ship is expected to arrive at the site of the latest incident on December 31 and the repairs now won’t be completed until January 4 or 5, the spokesman said, which would be 10 days later than originally expected.

Source:

http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/156089/cable_repairs_set_back_by_second_undersea_break.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

37. *December 31, United Press International* – (West) **Resorts work to counter avalanches.** Three of the nine U.S. avalanche deaths during the past 17 days have been on patrolled slopes, prompting forecasters to call condition of the snow pack dicey. Unusual weather patterns across the western United States left slabs of snow atop brittle bases, that in turn, raised the risk of avalanches at ski resorts — where fatal avalanches are rare — mountain passes and back country, the Wall Street Journal reported Wednesday. Resort operators said they are trying a number of methods to keep the snow safe, such as setting off explosive charges to workers stomping on the snow to pack it more tightly, the Journal reported. Meteorologists point to a weak bottom layer of snow for the problems. The first snowfall for many parts of the West was early in the fall when the ground was still warm, creating a layer of snow that does not bond well and is

prone to cracking under weight.

Source: http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/resorts-work-counter-avalanches/story.aspx?guid={2CA8915B-7228-4A92-86DA-171B8B151918}&dist=msr_2

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments & Icons Sector

38. *December 31, Washington Times* – (National) **Suit challenges national parks gun rule.**

An anti-gun group filed a lawsuit Tuesday seeking to overturn new regulations that allow people to carry concealed weapons in virtually every national park and wildlife refuge. The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence suit says six of its members who frequently visited national parks no longer will do so because of fears about gun violence, including two teachers who will either cancel or curtail field trips to Ellis Island in New York and the Mall in the District. The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) announced earlier this month a change to a 25-year policy that required firearms to be kept unloaded and packed away while in national parks and wildlife refuges. The new regulations, which would likely allow people to carry firearms in 388 of the nation's 341 national parks, are scheduled to go into effect January 9. Along with filing the lawsuit, the Brady Center is seeking a temporary injunction from U.S. District Court in the District to stop the regulations from taking hold.

Source: <http://washingtontimes.com/news/2008/dec/31/national-park-gun-carrying-rule-prompts-suit/>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

39. *December 31, Enterprise News* – (Massachusetts) **Taunton calls on Gov. Patrick to declare dam repair emergency.** On Monday, city councilors voted to send a letter urging the governor to officially declare Lake Sabbatia and the downstream area from the now defunct dam “a state of emergency.” The letter asks that the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Dam Safety be instructed to take immediate steps, in order to repair the former dam and dismantle the temporary cofferdam that now controls the flow of water from the lake into Mill River. The cofferdam was built last year by residents concerned about low water levels, following the dismantling of the original dam which the state had deemed a safety hazard.

Source: <http://www.enterpriseneews.com/news/x1277302980/Taunton-calls-on-Gov-Patrick-to-declare-dam-repair-emergency>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions: Send mail to NICCReports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-3421

Subscribe to the Distribution List: Visit the [DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report](#) and follow instructions to [Get e-mail updates when this information changes](#).

Removal from Distribution List: Send mail to NICCReports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-3421 for more information.

Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.